

mary dunes which result, in many cases, from the destruction of *Ammophila* by trampling. Small (1954) suggested that this species, once established, is able to out-compete *Ammophila*. It would be interesting to evaluate the potential of *Carex kobomugi* to stabilize disturbed dunes, as it appears to survive in sites where *Ammophila* does not, and may provide more resistance to erosion by wind than does *Ammophila*. The range extension of this species may be coincident with increased disturbance of the coastal dunes.

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NOTE ON THE STATUS OF
AGALINIS MARITIMA (RAF.) RAF. IN MAINE

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Agalinis maritima (Raf.) Raf. (= *Gerardia maritima*) occurs on salt marshes along the eastern seaboard from Nova Scotia to Florida, Mexico, and the West Indies. It was included in Rare and Endangered Vascular Plant Species in Maine (Eastman, 1978) because there were only three historical Maine records (Wells 1880, Wells 1916, Alna 1966) and there was little contemporary knowledge of the status of the species in the state. In 1981 the Alna site

was relocated and evaluated by the Maine Critical Areas Program staff. The area was registered as a critical area because it was then the only known station extant in Maine. However, the Checklist of Vascular Plants of Maine (Bean, et al., 1966) lists *Gerardia maritima* from Washington and Cumberland Counties as well as York County. In addition, there were unvouchered reports of *A. maritima* present at a number of other localities along the southern Maine coast: Kennebunkport; Winnegance Creek, Phippsburg; Morse River marsh, Phippsburg; Bald Head, Georgetown; Reid State Park, Georgetown; Ocean Park, Old Orchard Beach.

In the summer of 1982 an effort was made to reassess the abundance and distribution of *Agalinis maritima* in southern Maine. During August and September *A. maritima* was found regularly in salt marshes in Kittery Point, York, Wells, Kennebunk, Kennebunkport, Biddeford Pool, Scarborough, Phippsburg and Georgetown. In preliminary searches on more easterly marshes in Warren, South Thomaston, and Winterport, we did not locate *A. maritima* despite the presence of apparently suitable habitat.

Agalinis maritima was most often encountered in the upper salt marsh in slight depressions where the vegetative cover, especially *Spartina patens*, was sparse. The most frequent associates of *A. maritima* were *Glaux maritima*, *Salicornia europaea*, *Plantago juncooides*, *Triglochin maritima*, *Limonium Nashii*, and occasional *Potentilla anserina* and *Solidago sempervirens*. Seaside *Gerardia* was often patchily abundant with hundreds of plants in a few square meters. Although Maine individuals are typically shorter (10–15 cm) than plants in southern states, their numbers and seed production seem to indicate that the Maine populations are thriving and likely to persist.

Due to its small size *Agalinis maritima* is not conspicuous on the marsh until it blooms. Its blossoms are short-lived, often falling off within a day. These factors, coupled with its annual habit, locally transient and patchy distribution, and the fact that it grows on salt marshes, a habitat infrequently visited by some botanists, make it likely that Seaside *Gerardia* is a species more overlooked and under-reported than genuinely rare in Maine. At least, it is a frequent member of the flora of most salt marshes along the southern Maine coast. The northeastern limit of the Maine distribution of *A. maritima* remains to be discovered.

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